



HIGHLIGHTS

Medical Assistance Wheelchair Repair Pg. 2

> Day Trips Pg. 2

Schedule of Events & Transportation Pg. 4



Today's Weather Outlook

High: 96 Low: 74 Partly Cloudy

UPCLOSE:

Veterans of the Games — 20 Years Competing and Still Going Strong

We've all heard about those first National Veterans Wheelchair Games back in 1981 in Richmond, Virginia. We know the event celebrated the "International Year of Disabled Persons," and that 74 veterans from 14 states competed for three days in five different wheelchair sports.

This week, seven of those original competitors are back for more — six of whom have been to all 20 Games!

They are: **Tony Barriga**, 66, New Augusta, S.C., #197, **James Bird**, 55, St. Louis, Mo. #272, **Stefan Florescu**, 73, Lincoln Park, Mich. #551, **Joseph Lacertosa**, 67, Staten Island, N.Y., #367, **Jimmy May**, 50, Midlothian, Va. #24, and **Leon Thompson**, 54, Englewood, Fla., #381. **Roy Nungester**, 54, Circleville, Ohio, #183, also competed in the first Wheelchair Games in 1981.

Memories of the first Games varied, as did the reasons these seasoned athletes decided to compete.



Jimmy May greets Leon Thompson, two 20-year veterans of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

According to Florescu, "The enthusiasm was always there. We were all hoping this thing would continue — and after the second and third year, we had a good feeling that it would."

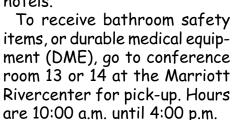
"My coach at the Tampa VA got me started," said Thompson. "Since that time, it's gotten huge. It's much more organized now, but we still had a lot of fun. It's been great seeing the whole thing grow."

"That first year, I was competing in my hometown," says May, "as a one-time thing, believe it or not. Now, here I am 20 years later!"

Wheelchair Repair

The main repair station will be located at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. There will be a secondary repair station located at the Convention Center. Invacare technicians will be at each of the events, handling minor repairs on the spot. Unfortunately, we will not have

repair stations or technicians at all of the hotels.



The phone number in conference room 13 is 554-6102, or 669-9924. When you check out of your hotel room, please deliver the DME to conference room 13.

Want continuing education credit for certification as a recreation therapist or to maintain your certification? Attend the Outdoor Education Sessions on July 7, at Northside Independent School District Athletic Complex. Presenter will be Barbara Chambers (track and field) from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

LOST: \$90 on Tuesday. If found, call volunteer John Greaney at the Comfort Inn.

Lost: Wallet. If found, call Dennis Thomas at Mariott Rivercenter



Today's Menu

Breakfast (will be served from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Marriott and Westin):

Assorted Chilled Juices Fresh Sliced Fruit Pastries, Muffins, Bagels Chef Tim's Eggs Rancheros Coffee, Tea, Milk

Lunch:

Assorted Sandwiches/Wraps Homestyle Potato Salad Chips

Cookies/Brownies

Iced Tea

Dinner:

Italian Salad

Meat Lasagna

Italian Style Squash with Mushrooms and Tomatoes

Warm Garlic Bread

Sweet Street Desserts

Iced Tea

Space is still available

Thursday, July 6, Far West Rodeo, free. Leave Convention Center at 7:00 p.m.; Friday July 7, Laredo Shopping (Mexican border), free. Leave San Antonio at 7:00 a.m., return at 3:00 p.m. (space is limited, not wheelchair accessible); Saturday, July 8, Antiquing in Fredericksburg, \$3 per person. Leave San Antonio at 8:00 a.m., return at 3:00 p.m. (wheelchair buses full); July 7, last day to sign up for remaining events. For tickets call Darla Forney at 559-9928 or 617-5300, ext. 5761.

The Memorabilia Committee is selling National Veterans Wheelchair Games polo shirts for \$17, T-shirts for \$5 (up to XL, \$8 for XXL), and baseball caps for \$7 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center until they sell out. Selling hours are: July 6, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; July 7, Northside Independent School District Stadium, 8 a.m. - Noon; Convention Center, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., and July 8, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Feeling hot, hot, hot?

- ★ Wear loose, light-colored, cotton clothing and a cap or wide brimmed hat
- ★ Protect your skin with plenty of sunscreen lotion SPF 20 or more
- * Use sunglasses to reduce glare or protect your eyes and apply lip balm often and generously
- * Use a spray bottle or wet towel to cool yourself down or take a "siesta" inside for awhile
- * Drink plenty of fluids on a frequent basis. If you feel thirsty, you are already one quart of fluid behind your normal requirements. Most of your liquid intake should be water
- * Avoid alcoholic beverages and minimize coffee and tea intake which can act as a diuretic to make you more dehydrated.

Medical Aid Stations are located at:

Rivercenter Marriott, room 3530 6a - 10p, Mon.-Fri.; 6a - 12p, Sat. Conv. Center, Event Ballroom 8a - 10p, Tues. - Fri.; 11a - 4p, Sat. Northside Stadium (*under bleachers*) 8a - 10p, Thurs. - Fri.; 8a - 1p, Sat.

Medical staff include:

Dr. Bob O'Hara, Chicago

Dr. Leigh Anderson, Denver

Dr. Donna Blake, Denver

Dr. Ken Lee, Palo Alto

Dr. Dan Scott, Denver

Dr. Karen Wolflein, Denver

PA-C Vera Arnold, Chicago

PA-C Janice Feincher, San Diego

VISN 17 Medical Assistance Team volunteers are wearing mauve T-shirts with a white cross on the back and are carrying black back packs or orange kits.

UP CLOSE:

Cont. from page 1

Barriga was also sent by a VA recreation therapist from Miami. "It's come a long way since then."

Favorite aspects of the Games had a common theme among our seasoned veterans, who all named friendship, fellowship and camaraderie. "It's seeing everybody every year, all the different people," says Thompson, using words echoed by the others. They also agree it's not so much the medals (though between them there are far too many to count). As Joseph Lacertosa says, "I've made many friends here!" And, while Barriga enjoys the competition,



Stef Florescu with National Event Director Tom Brown.

he also likes watching the other veterans compete and "just seeing them do the best that they can."

Although a few of the veterans did have some favorite Games, most had trouble naming just one place or year. For May, "all the San Antonio Games rank right up there." Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1982) was named by two of the vets. Others liked New Orleans (1990), Seattle (1996) and Puerto Rico (1999). For Florescu and Thompson, "They've all been great!"

The Games have come a long way since they first began. May noted the broader range of disabilities present. "There's a lot more for the quads, and it's really great to see that." Lacertosa thinks, "The competition is a little harder now." Barriga described all the changes in technology that have taken place over the past 20 years. "All the equipment that disabled people can utilize now — that's

been a big change." For Roy Nungester, who was at the first Games but missed one or two since then due to illness, "These Games have outgrown them all. There's a lot more competition now, also a lot more volunteers — we couldn't do this without them!"

The veterans all agree on one thing — the Games have given them encouragement, better health, and renewed energy. They all want to keep on coming back — as Leon Thompson puts it, "For as long as I'm alive!"

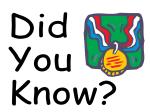
"The Games keep me busy and active," said May. "As soon as this one's over, I'll be thinking of next year! I think it's going to be a lifetime thing!" For Lacertosa, "This gives my spirit a get up and go!"

Although every veteran does not know all of the others, they all seemed to know Tony Barriga! "He's so filled with enthusiasm," said Florescu.

So what does Tony Barriga really think about these Games? "You're automatically a winner whenever you approach something like this. This is the best medication that's ever been given to a veteran!"



Tony Barriga — a very familiar face at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.



Second grader Gina DeGasperis, granddaughter of retired UPS vice president and sponsor Siro DeGasperis, won first place in a poster contest at her elementary school, Birch Lane, in Massapequa, N.Y.

Challenged by the theme, "Any-



thing is possible if . . .," children were asked to complete the statement. Gina chose something she knew a lot about -- the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. A veteran of three Games, Gina wanted to share her experiences, so she designed a poster with some of her NVWG friends, and completed the statement, If you believe in your-

She presented the poster to John Hanson, Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs on Monday.



Landon Henderson was the lucky winner of Tuesday's drawing, a dinner for two at Schilo's.

> Register daily for a chance to win

20TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 6

6:00 - 9:00 AM

8:00 AM

9:00 -11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

3:00 PM

4:00 PM 4:30PM -6:30 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

FRIDAY, JULY 7

6:00AM - 9:00 AM 8:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

11:00 AM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM

3:00 PM

4:30PM - 6:30 PM 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 8

6:00AM - 9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

3:00 PM

9:00 AM

7:00 PM

BREAKFAST

SLALOM TABLE TENNIS BOWLING

AIR GUNS WEIGHTLIFTING WEIGH-IN

SLALOM

TABLE TENNIS

AIR GUNS LUNCH SLALOM TABLE TENNIS

BOWLING 9 BALL AIR GUNS TABLE TENNIS AIR GUNS

SLALOM (EXHIBITION) DINNER

WEIGHTLIFTING SWIM

SOCIAL

BREAKFAST

FIELD SOFTBALL TRACK FIELD FIELD SOFTBALL FIELD

LUNCH BASKETBALL QUAD RUGBY

BASKETBALL QUAD RUGBY DINNER

FIFLD TRACK

BREAKFAST

ARCHERY SOFTBALL HAND CYCLING 5K ROAD RACE MOTOR RALLY SOFTBALL FINALS

LUNCH QUAD RUGBY FINALS BASKETBALL FINALS

CLOSING BANQUET

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER/WESTIN

CONVENTION CENTER (IV-V) CONVENTION CENTER (II-III)

AMF COUNTRY LANES (IA-IB-IĆ, STK.,HDL.)

CONVENTION CENTER CONVENTION CENTER CONVENTION CENTER (II-III)

CONVENTION CENTER (IV-V)

CONVENTION CENTER

CONVENTION CENTER
CONVENTION CENTER (IA-B-C) CONVENTION CENTER (IC) AMF COUNTRY LANES (RAMP) GALAXY BILLIARDS (II-III) CONVENTION CENTER

CONVENTION CENTER (IA-B) CONVENTION CENTER

CONVENTION CENTER (SUPER "G") CONVENTION CENTER

CONVENTION CENTER NATATORIUM

FAR WEST RODEO

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER/WESTIN

NORTHSIDE ISD (IV) NORTHSIDE ISD NORTHSIDE ISD (IA-B-C)

NORTHSIDE ISD (V) NORTHSIDE ISD (III) NORTHSIDE ISD NORTHSIDE ISD (II)

CONVENTION CENTER CONVENTION CENTER **CONVENTION CENTER**

CONVENTION CENTER CONVENTION CENTER

CONVENTION CENTER NORTHSIDE ISD (IA-B-C) NORTHSIDE ISD (II-V)

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER/WESTIN

NORTHSIDE ISD NORTHSIDE ISD FT. SAM FT. SAM HEMISFAIR PARK

CONVICTR/AME COUNTRY LANES

CONV CTR/NATATORIUM

CONV CTR/NISD

CONVICTR/NISD

CONV CTR/FAR WEST RODEO

CONV CTR/GALAXY BILLIARDS/CONV.CTR.

NORTHSIDE ISD **CONVENTION CENTER** CONVENTION CENTER CONVENTION CENTER

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER

TRANSPORTATION

THURSDAY, JULY 6

6:30AM - 5:00 PM BOWLING/SHUTTLE 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM 9 BALL/SHUTTLE 5:00 PM -11:00 PM SWIMMING/SHUTTLE

SOCIAL/SHUTTLE

6:30 PM -11:00 PM FRIDAY, JULY 7

6:00 AM -1:00 PM TRACK/FIELD/CONV. CTR. SHUTTLE 4:00 PM -11:00 PM TRACK/FIELD/CONV_CTR_SHUTTLE

SATURDAY JULY 8

CONV CTR/NISD/CONV CTR 6:30 AM -12:30 PM ARCHERY/SOFTBALL SHUTTLE 6:30 AM -12:30 PM 5K/HAND CYCLE SHUTTLE CONVICTR/FT SAM

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